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**Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515**

February 19, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

When Congressional Leadership gathers at the bipartisan Healthcare Summit on February 25, I urge you to include elected leaders with a healthcare background in the discussion. An overhaul meant to fix the flaws that plague our \$2.5 trillion system —nearly half of which is paid by taxpayers through programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans care — would best be crafted in part by the twenty-plus representatives who have worked in medicine.

The GOP Doctors Caucus, on which I serve as Co-Chair, was formed to separate the politics from the policy. With a membership of former healthcare providers and medical doctors, the Caucus focuses on real reforms that improve the quality of care, reduce costs, and increase accessibility for all Americans. There are 14 members in the Caucus that have served as psychologists, obstetricians, family physicians, heart surgeons, orthopedic surgeons, optometrists, radiation oncologists, dentists, and nephrologists. Through our professional experiences we have learned firsthand how the healthcare system can be improved, including: how \$800 billion to \$1 trillion wasted each year in the healthcare system can be eliminated; information technology can improve patient safety; the spread of healthcare-acquired infections, which cause nearly 100,000 preventable deaths every year, can be stopped.

If the Administration and Congress were to meet on judicial reform, surely there would be lawyers in the room. When funding or strategy for the military is debated, we trust the veterans serving in Congress to best guide policy. The quality of healthcare reform legislation could be vastly improved if legislators who have treated patients, diagnosed illnesses, and written prescriptions are involved.

As professionals who have treated America's families, we stand prepared to offer our expertise and help craft a healthcare reform bill that best accomplishes our shared goal of ensuring that all Americans have access to quality healthcare that is affordable and accessible.

Sincerely,



Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

Cc: Speaker Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader John Boehner

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